

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

FLD  
604

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL -U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY  
SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	USSR (Armenian SSR)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1
SUBJECT	Religion in the Leninakan Area	DATE DISTR.	30 October 1955
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	

25X1 The churches of Leninakan (N 40-48, E 43-50), as well as in surrounding villages, have been closed for a long time. The churches in the rural areas are now used as storage space for wheat and vegetables. The former churches in Leninakan are used by the military for their own purposes and sentries guard them. In spite of the ban on church services, sometimes religious services are conducted secretly in private homes.  25X1

25X1  90 per cent of the peasants in the villages are religious. The government has been trying to convince the religious elements that their God is not a god and that Stalin is actually God. The government is particularly concentrating on the children in this respect. As an example

25X1 of the method used by the government,

One day during school in one village all the children were assembled for a class in religion. The children were told that Stalin is God. The teacher asked the children if their God had ever given them bread when they were hungry and had prayed to Him for it. Then the teacher went on and told them that he would prove to them that Stalin and not their God was the only one who could answer their prayers. The teacher then asked the children to look up and pray aloud in unison to God to send them bread. Nothing happened. Next the teacher asked them to pray to Stalin and ask him to send them bread. When the children had done so, a trap door in the classroom ceiling opened and loaves of bread fell out. It seems that to prepare this lesson in religion the teacher with the help of a local official rigged the above-mentioned trap door. A cord led from the inside out to the yard where the cooperating official could pull the cord and, thus, open the trap door. On hearing the prayer to Stalin he pulled the cord and the loaves of bread came tumbling down.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)